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THE UTAH STATESMAN

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Election season begins



Kylee Larsen photo

USUSA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, (LtoR) Ian Anderson, Miles Anderson and Trevor Olsen take questions at the GRC Debate and Straw Poll in the TSC on Wednesday.

► **By Manda Perkins**
asst. news editor

It's USUSA Election season, and Aggies have begun campaigning to serve the student body next year. To view candidates and their platforms, visit www.usu.edu/ususa/candidates.

Kicking off the the season, the Government Relations Council facilitated the USUSA Candidate Debate & Straw Poll, inviting candidates for president, executive vice president and student advocate vice president to answer questions about their platforms and take questions from Twitter and the audience. At the conclusion of the

debate, a straw poll was held to gauge where candidates currently sit in the running. Casey Saxton, the current student advocate vice president, said in an email that by holding the poll, he hoped candidates would encourage their supporters to attend. Results of the poll indicate that Trevor Olson is favored for pres-

ident with 53 percent of votes, Nikoles Clason is favored for executive vice president with 51 percent of votes, and Ashley Waddoups is favored for student advocate vice president with 49 percent of votes. Primary elections begin Monday at 7 a.m. and conclude Tuesday at 3 p.m. Results will be announced Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the TSC Hub.

The Final Debate, hosted by The Utah Statesman, will be held in the Hub on Tuesday at 5:30. Students are encouraged to comment and ask questions using #USUSADebate. Final elections begin Wednesday at 7 a.m. and conclude Thursday at 3 p.m. Results will be announced Thursday at 6:30 in the Taggart Student Center Lounge.



Ryan Costanzo photo

LOGAN RESIDENTS GATHER BEHIND the Logan Islamic Center on Monday in remembrance of three muslim students who were killed in North Carolina on Feb. 11.

Candlelight vigil honors Muslim shooting victims

► **By Jeffrey Dahdah**
news editor

A small crowd of people, illuminated by candlelight, stood in the cold behind the Logan Islamic Center for an hour as representatives from religion after religion addressed the shootings of three Muslim students in North Carolina last week. After an opening prayer, a representative from the Islamic faith spoke about the shootings, then someone from the Episcopalian church, then Presbyterian, Quaker, Lutheran, Mormon, Buddhist and Catholic all spoke about unity and trying times. "It's my honor to stand together with all of you and with our brothers and sisters who follow the path of Islam," said Paul Hines, a representative of the First Presbyterian Church in Logan. "In my tradition there is a verse that encourages us to rejoice

with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep. Tonight we weep together." Quickly after news of the shootings came, the Logan Islamic Center started setting up the vigil. "We specifically went around and invited every religious organization in the valley. We spent last Friday running around and doing that," said Erik Thalman, a member of the Logan Islamic Center who helped organize the event. The idea was to unite as many religions as possible both against hate crimes of religion and in remembrance of the three Muslims who were shot and killed. "These are times of great darkness and times of violence and times of bloodshed all over the world, not just in North Carolina," said Aiya Sakr,

► See **VIGIL**, Page 2

Government Relations Council delivers ice cream, receives Campus Cup

► **By Levi Henrie**
staff writer

The Utah State University Government Relations Council visited Capitol Hill on Wednesday, delivering Aggie Ice Cream to members of Congress and received the Campus Cup, an award for registering the most students to vote. "What we do is we just try to show our appreciation to the Legislature," said Andrew Redfern, a GRC member. "I know they

do a lot of things, not only for the state as a whole but also for the university. We want to show our appreciation, even if it's in such a small way as giving them some of the world's best ice cream." Aggie Ice Cream Day, a tradition for several years now, is the day when USU shows appreciation to the state government by handing out free Aggie Ice Cream to the Legislators and their staffs. "I enjoy the Aggie

DAVID PULSIPHER
PERFORMANCE AUDIT DIRECTOR
"Aggie Ice Cream Day at the Capitol is probably one of the better days of the session."

Ice Cream," said David Pulsipher, performance audit director in the state auditor's office. "Aggie Ice Cream Day at the Capitol is probably one of the better

days of the session." The GRC, under the leadership of Student Advocate Vice President Casey Saxton, is the official lobbying group for USU. As

such, one of their duties is to visit the Capitol periodically and speak to the Legislature on behalf of USU. "If I were to give (our cooperation) a letter grade, I'd give it an A," Redfern said. "Even if they can't carry out what we need to get done, they want to let us know why and work with us in other ways." Saxton said he feels the Legislature works well with USU. "To be honest I think

they like us a lot," Saxton said. In addition to the GRC and USUSA showing appreciation to the Legislature, the Legislature as well as Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox demonstrated their appreciation to the students for their efforts in helping their classmates register to vote. "The Campus Cup means a lot to the Lieutenant Governor," said David May,

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TECH & MONEY

Athletics request could cost taxpayers

► **By Brenna Kelly**
staff writer

The Utah State University Athletics Department is requesting \$1.5 million from the state Legislature this year.

Sen. Lyle Hillyard, R-Logan, said this funding would improve recruitment at USU by incentivizing athletes with stipends. He said other universities in the conference can provide stipends beyond housing and tuition, and USU needs funding to stay competitive.

Hillyard referred to the new NCAA provision that was passed a few weeks ago in a vote of 79-1. According to ESPN.com, that the provision, called “Full Cost of Attendance,” allows colleges in the “Power 5” conferences (SEC, Big 10, Big 12, Pac-12, ACC) to compensate their athletes with stipends to cover living expenses.

Universities in the remaining “Group of 5” conferences — like the Mountain West to which Utah State belongs — also have the opportunity to follow suit.

Associate Athletic Director Jake Garlock said USU athletes are reimbursed for more than tuition and housing.

“For those athletes on full scholarships, we cover tuition and books but also transportation and food — that kind of stuff,” Garlock said. “On-campus housing, we take care of, and if they’re off-campus, we stipend it out. ... They receive four installments throughout the semester.”

As of 2012, the university was spending six times more on student athletes in athletic spending than students who weren’t on athletic teams, according to the Knight Commission.

The \$1.5 million request has already been cut in half by the state Senate. This does not come as a surprise to Hillyard, however, who said the amount was “unrealistic” to begin with. The request will now go to the Executive Appropriations Committee, which is chaired by Hillyard.

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Kylie Larsen photo

Vigil

From Page 1

one of the organizers of the event, to the crowd. “It is because of that, although it might be scary, that we must stand together united and to send a different kind of message a message of peace, hope and understanding.”

Deah Barakat, 23, Yusor Mohammed Abu-Salhad, 21, and Razan Mohammed Abu-Salhad, 19, were all shot and killed by Craig Stephen Hicks in North Carolina. There is some dispute over the motive for the shooting with Hicks and police. Some say it was over a parking dispute, while other critics claim it was a hate crime.

Barakat was a student at the University of North Carolina. His wife, Yusor, was a graduate of North Carolina State University who was planning on attending UNC in the fall. Razan was

Yusor’s little sister and a student at N.C. State.

Mohammed Hussein, coordinator of religious affairs at the Logan Islamic Center, said that Yusor and Razan’s father, Mohammed Abu-Salhad, is a Palestinian man who came to America seeking safety.

“He left his land. He left his people, and he came here seeking safety,” Hussein said to the attendees. “He became an American citizen, and he had two daughters. They spoke accent-free American English. They went to American universities they became good American citizens. But it was not enough for them.”

For some members of the Muslim community like Omima Khalat, who is a Muslim student at Utah State, the events in North Carolina are concerning from a personal perspective.

“This story has touched our hearts a lot because this could be us,” Khalat said. “These people were like normal people. They were even American. Like, they

play basketball. They were born here, raised here. This simply could be any one of us.”

Bonnie Glass-Coffin, the leader of the interfaith initiative at USU, said that the multiple religions

coming together was important.

“I thought it was fantastic for a very sad reason. It was fantastic that we all came together,” said Glass-Coffin. “That’s really the point of the whole Utah State University interfaith initiative, to be able to come together around common concerns.”

The Islamic Center also took the opportunity to educate people about their faith.

“What would really help is the changing of our understanding, changing of our concepts, changing of the way we look at others. (Understanding) that we are humankind,” Hussein said.

They also took the opportunity to send their own message.

“We’re not afraid, and we want to just include everyone. Extreme voices are really loud, and we just want to show a different kind of voice, so we just figured bring a lot of quiet voices together and maybe they can all speak as one,” Sakr and Khalat said.

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Ryan Costanzo photo

Capitol

From Page 1

special assistant to the Lieutenant Governor. “(College kids) are the next generation. They’re the ones coming up and the ones who are going to be making decisions. It’s important to get them involved.”

In order to win the Campus Cup, members of the GRC and the USUSA registered nearly 1,000 students. In collaboration with USU College Republicans and College Democrats, these groups worked to ensure they’d exceed the numbers achieved by schools like Brigham Young University, University of Utah and last year’s champion, Salt Lake Community College.

“It was a lot of work. Everybody put in two or three hours at least,” Redfern said. “We’d table in the TSC, then we’d go out door to door and do all that. We just really wanted to make sure Utah State came out with a victory in the Campus Cup.”

While the students enjoyed receiving recognition for their achievements thus far, they continued to emphasize that more can be done.

“I think moving forward, it’s important for students to get involved in the political process,” Saxton said. “It’s important for them to vote. It’s important for them to speak up to their elected officials on policies that affect them.”

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Ryan Costanzo photo

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COUNCIL serve Aggie Ice Cream to members of the state Congress.



Tweets of the Week



@Clarke_CRFMN
Walked into my class hoping we didn’t have a test, walked out hoping I didn’t fail it. #college



@FerrisRBall
The best thing about #USUSADebate and elections is the fact that nothing ever changes. Ever. But your cute speech is cute. #VoteForWhoever



@dan_mesz
Wanna learn patience? Drive from California to Utah with you wife’s grandma controlling Pandora.



@Chels_Yoshikawa
Lol at the people that say they’re single in their bio on any social media



@racheleyerose
College is a nightmare dressed like a day dream

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Faith and fasting

Students improve selves with Ash Wednesday, Lent

► **By Ariell Allred**
staff writer

Music sung by choir and congregation echoed throughout the Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish Church in Hyde Park as people flooded the pews to celebrate Ash Wednesday through worship.

"Remember you are dust and into dust you shall return," multiple ministers repeated as they dipped their fingertips into a bowl filled with ashes, drawing crosses on the foreheads of every willing participant inside the church.

The symbol represents mortality and death and is meant to be worn until it comes off naturally.

"The ash is a reminder for us," said Catholic Deacon, Jim Miller. "What we're supposed to be thinking of during Easter are three main things: prayer, fasting and alms. Lent helps us to do that."

The Lenten season is a spiritual journey, not only for the most devout believers, but also for anyone who is seeking to better themselves.

Utah State University student Alexis Porter has been participating in the Lenten tradition since she was young.

"I gave up chocolate as a little girl, and that was the hardest thing because my parents always had candy and chocolate in the house," she said.

Porter later moved up to sacrificing cartoons, abstaining from meat in junior high and then social media for the following several years. This time around, Porter pursues a healthier lifestyle.

"I'm going to try portion control with food," Porter said. "It gets pretty obsessive for me, so I'm just going to try and moderate it."

There are no true specifications set on what a person must give up. Rather, it's a personal choice that should be born of

penitence and sacrifice, Miller said.

"Fasting can be refraining from gossip and not being critical of others. It's not always about food," Miller said. "It's about giving. Even if you're a poor student, give something."

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FRANCISCO PIRES
CATHOLIC FATHER

“Some people think that we just give up things for no reason, but it’s more than that. We give things up so others can have more.”



Kelsie Lott photo

Hozier serenades sold-out Salt Lake crowd

Andrew Hozier-Byrne is modern musical bard — an Irish poet gypsy, if you will (and if you won't, you should).

Hozier serenaded a sold-out crowd at The Depot in Salt Lake City on Tuesday. Despite his recent rise to international fame, he was charmingly humble and — like many artists before him — seemed genuinely surprised at the enthusiasm of his sizable audience.

The haunting synth melodies of Iceland's Asgeir formed a perfect opening act for Hozier. The unique group — a sort of mash up between Bon Iver and techno — didn't tour outside of Iceland until 2012. A

Noelle Johansen



The haps

blend of English and Icelandic lyrics with gorgeous harmonies subdued the growing crowd, readying a mellow vibe for the



Noelle Johansen photo

HOZIER PERFORMS at The Depot in Salt Lake City on Tuesday.

sheer awesomeness of Hozier's performance.

Asgeir's performance was succinct. They didn't interact with the crowd much, and there was very little time between songs, if any. They just kept their head down and played their music.

In a word, Hozier was passionate. In many more words, he sang with raw emotion, like it was the first and last time he'd ever sing. It was hard to stay grounded, easier to get carried away in imagining whatever he was feeling when he wrote each poetic song.

The set opened with "Angel

► See **HOZIER**, Page 4

Best-selling author speaks on past president

► **By Mandy Morgan**
senior writer

Amity Shlaes, a New York Times best-seller, journalist and teacher, spoke to students and community members about previous United States President Calvin Coolidge on Wednesday in the Eccles Conference Center.

The event, hosted by numerous Utah State University departments, was Shlaes' second appearance at USU. Students from all areas of study, including political science, economics and communications attended the event for classes or were encouraged by professors.

Shlaes published the book "Coolidge" in 2013 about the man of strong faith, who she refers to as "my forgotten president" and "the hero you never knew you had."

Shlaes described the time period leading up to the Warren Harding-Coolidge team being elected as president and vice president in 1920. They were known for their strong stance on opposing overspending by the government, Shlaes said, which was

unusual because of the common mindset that administrations always said yes. Their plan was to reduce taxes and the federal budget.

Beginning in 1922, Harding grew tired of keeping up appearances and took a break from so many tax cuts, Shlaes said. He didn't like saying, "No," so much, and though the country was fairly prosperous, a number of Harding's implemented plans were falling through.

Harding died in August 1923.

"He died, I think, of his sorrows, of his recognition of a job that didn't get finished," Shlaes said.

Coolidge was sworn into office that same month by his father while on vacation in his hometown Plymouth Notch, Vermont. Throughout his presidency, he was called many things, one of which was "the accident of an accident," a stab at both Harding and Coolidge, for not always being taken seriously.

"Where Harding was divided as the new

► See **AUTHOR**, Page 4



Kelsie Lott photo

AMITY SHLAES, author, journalist and teacher, speaks on Calvin Coolidge on Wednesday.



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Snapchat account degrades women

My therapist in high school always told me that when he had patients who acted out, he would tell them it would be easier to wear Christmas lights to stand out.

Everyone wants to be wanted. It's human nature to crave the acceptance of those around us. Some people need this more than others. This is not in itself a bad thing, but the way we get the attention we want can be destructive.

USU Boobs is a Snapchat profile that posts pictures of — you guessed it — boobs sent to them from female USU students. Initially hearing about this, there are probably two types of reactions. The first: indifference. It's their body, and they have the choice to send the picture or not, and maybe they're just confident. The second reaction: disgust. How could they have such low self-esteem to do that and have everyone see them naked? Regardless of your reaction, there are some issues we have to consider with this type of exhibitionism.

First thing to consider: There is no way to ensure that the girl in the picture is the girl sending the picture. Every girl can tell you a story of a time when they knew a girl who royally screwed her over. And don't forget that there are already dozens of ex-shaming websites where people can upload naked pictures or sexually explicit videos they have of their ex. USU Boobs will eventually become another medium for angry exes and vindictive friends.

Another thing to consider is that unlike certain social media sites that restrict users to college students or those over



18, Snapchat doesn't have that feature. Girls all over the world, and particularly Logan, can send their pictures to USU Boobs without anyone being able to verify their age.

Something else to think about is that, while it is the girls' choice to send their picture to USU Boobs, whoever then shares it with however many people follow them causes the original submitter to lose control of that picture. They can't control who screenshots that picture and sends it to other people or shares it on another website. As soon as that picture is shared with USU Boobs, any kind of empowering control you might think you have is stripped from you.

Finally, we have to consider that by allowing this type of validation to become prevalent and accepted, we are promoting a culture that sees women as walking boobs. USU Boobs lowers the standard for everyone on campus. It makes it ok for guys to stop seeing us as women who are trying to become academically and socially successful. The ladies on this campus are strong, smart, beautiful and worth more than what USU Boobs has to offer.

I have a specific message to both the women sending these pictures and those promoting it:

To the women, you do not need that kind of validation. You might think you do, but in the end, it will not bring you happiness. Look, I get it. We've all had moments when we feel less than, and while getting validation for your body is an immediate rush, it's a Band-Aid on a fractured bone. Ultimately, it's useless, and only by ad-

ressing the fracture can you stop feeling like you need it.

To those promoting USU Boobs: Do you really want to look back at your college career and rationalize to yourself that you helped exploit girls for their body? Do you really not care enough about this school and the people of it to keep this going? I'd ask that you really consider if any good can come from this. If you want to empower women, there are so many better options.

My final words: We are not walking boobs. I would hope that we, as a community, can try to find better ways to build up the women around us, rather than focus on them as blow-up dolls.

— Kasey Van Dyke is a five-year sophomore who can't make up her mind about a major. Currently she is studying physics. That may change next week. She enjoys Diet Coke and South Park. Contact her at kaseyvandyke2@gmail.com.

Finding hope at Common Hour



STUDENTS LISTEN TO A PRESENTATION called Reaching Out/Finding Hope in the Taggart Student Center Auditorium on Wednesday. The Division of Student Services and the staff at Counseling and Psychological Services hosted the presentation, which focused on how to help students struggling to have hope during challenging times. Another main focus was communication and awareness of the resources and support systems available to students, as well as identifying and reaching out to at-risk students.

Lent

From Page 3

According to the Catholic Education Resource Center, there has been “some kind of Lenten preparation for Easter” since the beginning of the Catholic Church. It became a homogeneous church-wide tradition around the year 325 A.D.

Today, nearly 1 billion Christians celebrate the Lenten season.

“It’s tradition,” said Catholic Father Francisco Pires. “Some people think that we just give up things for no reason, but it’s more than that. We give things up so others can have more.”

Lent lasts a total of 46 days, starting on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Thursday. However, Sundays aren’t technically counted as part of the fast. During Lent, the Sabbath is spent celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, leaving 40 whole days of observance.

Other Christian denominations, such as the Lutheran, Anglican, Methodist and the Calvinist churches also celebrate the Lenten season.

“It’s just a good motivation for everything,” Porter said. “You can look back and be like, ‘Oh yeah, I did give that up,’ and it can inspire you to do it again. It’s to help you be more conscious of your life and your lifestyle choices.”

— ariell.allred@aggiemail.usu.edu

Hozier

From Page 3

of Small Death” and ended with “Take Me to Church,” followed by an encore and finale of “Work Song.” Hozier performed every track from his 2014 self-titled album, rendering each of them inferior to his live presence. In between, he mixed it up with a cover of a blues song variation and a remix of “1 Thing” by Amerie.

One especially poignant moment was when he played “In a Week” with fellow Irish singer-songwriter Alana Henderson. The duet of their voices was like a sad, sweet dream from which you never want to wake up. Henderson killed it on the cello all night. Hozier introduced each member of the brilliant band during the encore, linking arms in a row to bow after the final song.

Ideally, the fans would’ve danced (or swayed, nodded, anything) more. Some people allowed the songs to literally and figuratively move them. Many others were too hipster to reveal any semblance of human emotion and chose instead to stare at the stage (or, worse, at other concert-goers) with listless disdain. Or maybe Hozier’s deep, sexy voice lulled them into comas of wonderment. Either way, their hipster comas were broken with deafening applause after each song.

In response, Hozier was all thumbs-up, sheepish grins and gratitude — constantly thanking the audience, his band and Ásgeir for contributing to an “awesome” experience. His admirers couldn’t get enough. So, he sipped the hot tea in his microphone-stand cup holder, let loose his glorious man ponytail and gave them what they wanted: a heartfelt, better-than-life show.

—Noelle Johansen is a senior in journalism and Spanish. She’s loud and loves to interpretive dance, even if it means everyone hates her at the Hozier concert. Send a hey-o to noellejohansen@gmail.com or on Twitter @broelle.

Author

From Page 3

president, (Coolidge) was all one,” Shlaes said. “He was from Vermont. There’s not much money there. ... He was a saver. If he took one of those tests you take to figure out what career you should have, he would fall into an actuary, an accountant, an attorney. His entire being wanted to budget. That’s just the way he was built.”

Coolidge was known to say, “I am for economy, and after that I am for more economy,” his definition of economy being interpreted by Shlaes as saving.

He vowed to finish what he and Harding had started and would do it “to perfection,”

in his own words, Shlaes said. Reducing taxes in the United States became his administration’s Desert Storm, their Civil War. It was what they battled for while he was in office, she said.

After being in office 67 months, from August 1923 to March 1929, Coolidge’s impact left the federal budget lower than it had been when he first came into office, Shlaes said.

“Ronald Reagan is very famous for his tax cuts, and he got the top tax rate down to a famous level, the ‘Reagan level,’ which was 28 percent,” Shlaes said. “Well, what do you think Coolidge’s top rate was? Twenty-five percent. It’s blasphemy to say, but I’ll say better than Reagan.”

Amy Lanham, a junior majoring in accounting, came to the event because her economics professor suggested they go to

learn more about economy from a different point of view.

“It was really interesting. I’ve never heard anything like it,” Lanham said. “It’s really important to consider economics when looking at politicians.”

It was also interesting due to the fact that not many people talk a lot about Coolidge, Lanham said.

Kurt Lundgren, a senior majoring in marketing, came because he could receive extra credit in his economics class.

“I thought it was very informative about the the whole pre-Depression era, really,” Lundgren said.

To learn more about Shlaes visit her website at www.amityshlaes.com.

— mandy.m.morgan@aggiemail.usu.edu



Kelsie Lott photo

Give blood: Play rugby

Noelle Johansen

The haps



The USA men's rugby sevens team, the Eagles, placed fourth in the Las Vegas tournament of the 2014-15 Sevens World Series last weekend.

If fourth place doesn't seem like very big news, consider the following context.

The Eagles began competing for the rugby sevens world cup in the 1999-2000 series, where they finished 30th out of 34 teams. Since 2008, they have finished in the top 13 teams and were seventh last year.

This year was the first ever that USA made it to the quarter finals in Las Vegas, and they certainly fought for it. They were undefeated Friday after plowing through teams from Japan and Portugal. On Saturday, they tied with the world champs from South Africa and shut-out Canada — take that, America's hat.

Sunday was heart-breaking. The Eagles fell to the New Zealand All-Blacks, 26-12 — actually, a pretty close loss by only two scores — and were crushed in a rematch against South Africa, 31-0.

Regardless, USA finishing in fourth place is an impressive improvement from years past. They're moving up in the Series standings, which is especially exciting from a country where rugby is all but completely overshadowed by football, basketball, soccer, golf and underwater basket weaving. That might change soon, considering rugby sevens will be part of the 2016 Summer Olympics in Brazil.

Sevens is a speedier, intensified version of fifteens rugby.

Aggies down Spartans



Landon Pozernick photo

SEAN HARRIS GOES UP FOR A BLOCK while playing Nevada. Utah State defeated San Jose State 76-54 on the road Wednesday.

Men beat last-place MW team

By Jeff Dahdah
news editor

The Utah State men's basketball team weathered a slow start to beat San Jose State 76-54 on Monday in front of a small crowd of 1,311.

The game was the first one for the Aggies in eight days and took their record to 15-10 on the season and 8-5 in the Mountain West.

"We did come out a little rusty from those days off," said senior forward Sean Harris. "Once it started going, we started kicking it into another gear, and we started rolling."

The Aggies and the Spartans battled back and forth for much of the first half. Neither team held an advantage larger than five points for the first 13 and a half minutes of play.

However, with 5:47 left in the first half, junior guard Darius

Perkins was ejected following a scramble for the ball. Utah State would go on an 11-1 run immediately following the event, which boost-

played in eight days, and it showed at the start of the game. Our guys did what they needed to do."

Utah State's bench outscored the Spartan bench 21-3, led by Harris' nine points.

"I thought Sean Harris was really active in the second half. I told him in the first half that we needed him to give

us more energy because we were lacking some energy out there," Morrill said.

Sophomore forward Jalen Moore led the Aggies in points with 20, followed by junior guard Chris Smith who grabbed 17 points for himself.

The loss for the Spartans continued their 15-game losing streak. Utah State beat San Jose State 61-33 in Logan on Dec. 31.

"These games are hard because you're supposed to win. You're supposed to win by quite a bit, and you've still got to play. You don't just automatical-

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STEW MORRILL
HEAD COACH

"We hadn't played in eight days and it showed at the start of the game. Our guys did what they needed to do."

ed them into half-time with a 40-27 lead.

"I think that kind of sparked us," Harris said. "It's kind of quiet in here, and it got our energy going at least knowing that our favorite player was out, one of our best players, one of our leaders in Darius. So we wanted to play for him and keep it going even when he wasn't on the court."

Head coach Stew Morrill wasn't convinced that was the reason for the spark.

"I don't know if that was coincidence or what happened there, they were more aggressive than us," Morrill said. "We hadn't



Kyle Todecheene photo

FUNDA NAKKASOGLU DEFENDS A SHOT during the first half against San Jose State Wednesday. Nakkasoglu finished with 25 points.

Women snap losing streak at home

By Kalen Taylor
sports editor

After losing five straight Mountain West games, Utah State bounced back with an 85-80 win over San Jose State.

"It's very nice," said senior guard Elise Nelson, who had 13 points and tied a career-high 13 rebounds for the game's only double-double. "We've had so many close games. All of our games have been really competitive. It's nice to pull one out because we've been on the short end of it so many times."

USU freshman guard Funda Nakkasoglu was the game's leading scorer with 25 points — 16 coming in the second half, seven in the final two minutes.

"Funda came up huge," said Aggie head coach Jerry Finkbeiner. "If she goes four or five minutes without shooting, we're in trouble. ... She's got to get involved. With a few minutes left I said, 'Funda you have to shoot it,' and she gave me a wink. I like winks like that."

With just over a minute to play, the game reached its 12th tie at 78 points. Franny Vaaulu snatched a critical rebound, finished with 11 boards and was fouled on the play. Vaaulu made both her shots and Utah State wouldn't relinquish the lead again. Nakkasoglu and Nelson also chipped in with free throws down the stretch to extend the Aggie lead and get the win.

The rebounding

State. Strong defense also played a role for the USU, contributing 10 blocks and forcing 13 turnovers in the game.

"Rebounding is just a hustle thing," Nelson said. "You've got to have the 'want to.' It's something our team has been working on. I'm proud of how our team rebounded tonight."

Utah State scored first and traded buckets with San Jose State before taking the lead with less than 10 minutes to play in the first half. The Aggies built up a 12-point lead with two minutes to go in the half, but the Spartans hit two straight 3-pointers to cut the deficit to six going into half-time.

It was more of the same for San Jose State in the second half. The Spartans hit three more 3-point shots in the first two minutes of the second half to cut the Aggie lead down to four. SJSU eventually regained the lead but could only gain a four-point advantage before USU

See WOMEN Page 6

battle was won by Utah State. The Aggies had 55 rebounds, 20 on the offensive glass, compared to 49 total for San Jose

STATE ATHLETICS

FRIDAY
GYMNASTICS

VS. SOUTHERN UTAH | 7 PM

PINK EVENT

SATURDAY
MEN'S BASKETBALL
VS. FRESNO STATE | 7 PM



Aggie hockey prepares for season end



Kelsie Lott photo

THE HOCKEY TEAM GATHERS and prepares before the start of a period on Friday while playing the University of Utah. After losing two games last weekend, USU returns home to face BYU and Weber State on Friday and Saturday. The BYU game is the annual teddy-bear-toss game. After the regular season, the national tournament will be held in Tempe, Arizona. Utah State is currently ranked No. 6 in its division.

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State your case:

Coming out of the all-star break, who is the best NBA team?

► **By Thomas Sorenson**
staff writer

The Golden State Warriors are the best team in the NBA right now.

As of Tuesday, they are ranked No. 1 in defensive efficiency and No. 3 in offensive efficiency.

They are the highest-scoring team in the NBA with over 110 points per game, and they win their games by an average of 10.9 points per game. That's the highest-scoring margin since the 95-96 Bulls. You know the team that won 72 games?

The Warriors are straight up killing teams right now. Stephen Curry is widely considered the league MVP and just obliterated the 3-point contest at all-star weekend. Andrew Bogut is one of the best defensive centers in the NBA, and Klay Thompson is one of the most lethal scorers in his own right.

The Warriors are so good that they have two — yes two — former all stars coming



off the bench. The Western Conference is incredibly difficult, and there's no guarantee they'll make it to the NBA Finals, but Golden State is the best team in the league right now.

Oh, one more thing: Of the seven previous teams to have a double-digit average margin of victory for a season, all but one of those teams won the Finals. The Warriors aren't just a fun team anymore. They're the best team in the NBA.

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► **By Joe Baraiolo**
staff writer

We are entering a new era with new elite teams in the NBA.

Right now, it's looking like Golden State is the favorite in the West, while Atlanta is the favorite in the East.

Although the West is obviously the stronger conference, the strongest team in the NBA is the Atlanta Hawks.

The Warriors' star power has been very impressive so far this season, but it's Atlanta's balance of talented players that will give them the advantage in the playoffs.

The Hawks are the first team since the 2010-11 Celtics to feature four of their five starters in the All-Star game. Atlanta is a very well-balanced team, with five players averaging over 12 points per game.

Although Klay Thompson and Stephen Curry have had an amazing year offensively, leading the Warriors' offense



to number one in the league in points per game and assists per game, Golden State's defense is average, allowing the 15th fewest points per game. Atlanta has approached a more balanced style of play as sixth in the league in points per game, second in assists and fourth in points allowed.

The "Splash Brothers" have put up cute offensive numbers this season, but it's the tough Atlanta defense that will lead them to a title this year.

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Photo courtesy of David Barpal

ZACK TEST CATCHES A PASS on a restart against Japan on Friday in Las Vegas. USA Rugby took fourth place in the World Rugby Sevens Tournament.

Men

From Page 5

ly get to win. You have to play," Morrill said.

Utah State returns home to play Fresno State on Saturday. The Aggies lost in Fresno on Jan. 7 by a score of 61-52.

"I hope we're ready to play a little better than we did in Fresno because if we don't, we'll get beat again," Morrill said.

Utah State is currently in fifth place of the Mountain West, while Fresno State is one game behind them in sixth.

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Kylee Larsen photo

DARIUS PERKINS RAISES UP and shoots a 3-pointer against Boise State. Perkins was ejected in the first half of the game at San Jose State after a flagrant-2 foul was called. He had three points, two rebounds and two assists in his 10 minutes of action.

Women

From Page 5

came back.

"We were up at points. We were down at points" Nakkasoglu said. "We've never really been able to finish out a game this season. We knew that it was time. We got together and played the full 40 minutes."

For Utah State, now 7-8 on the season and 4-9 in the MW, it was what coaches and players alike called a "must-win" game. There are five more MW games to play and only two and a half weeks before the conference tournament.

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get your aggie on

UTAHSTATESMAN.COM

Rugby

From Page 5

Each team has seven players, all of whom seem way too beefy to be able to run as fast as they do. Each half is seven minutes long, except for the final game which runs 10-minute halves. It doesn't seem like much could happen in a 14-minute game. However, remember that rugby stops for nothing. The only lulls are mere seconds used to set up after a penalty or if a player is bleeding profusely, and even that's a stretch.

Last weekend was full of hard hits and nail-biting plays. Fiji fought to the bitter end and won the Las Vegas cup final after handily beating New Zealand.

After the final whistle blew, the packed stands of the Sam Boyd Stadium emptied onto the pitch. Each year, the announcer warns fans that storming the pitch is

banned, and each year a select few decide to disregard that before the last match ends. They are generally chased, tackled and escorted out of the stadium by security guards. When the tournament ends, however, it's a different story, and those left sitting in their seats become the minority.

Rugby is gaining national momentum. There are more youth and collegiate teams than ever before, and USA's fourth-place finish in Las Vegas along with the upcoming competition in the 2016 Olympics are sure to aide the growing trend.

Before long, the general national attitude about rugby is likely to leave their quiet seats in the stands and storm the pitch with the rest of the world.

— Noelle Johansen is a senior in journalism and Spanish. She knows very little about most sports. Enlighten her at noelle-johansen@gmail.com or on Twitter @broelle.

On a general scale, cops can't win

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THE PAGE

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All letters may be shortened, edited or rejected for reasons of good taste, redundancy or volume of similar letters. No anonymous letters will be published. Writers must sign all letters and include a phone number or e-mail address as well as a student identification number (none of which is published). Letters will not be printed without this verification. Letters can be hand delivered or mailed to The Statesman in the TSC, Room 311, or can be emailed to: statesmaneditor@aggiemail.usu.edu.

I've interacted more with policemen in the last year than in my entire life combined. Though the police force has been a hot topic covered by major news outlets, my personal experiences have had little to do with the specific events in Ferguson or elsewhere, but I suspect some of my experiences may have been connected with a similar problem. Let's start with the good and end with the bad.

"sir" a lot. The deputy was forgiving and gave me a warning, but he also accompanied the warning with a request that next time I see an officer I relax and be more friendly with him or her. It was genuine bit of advice, but let's be real; I'm never going to take a casual approach with law enforcement.

Annoying good cop: I'm a college student. I've made out with my boyfriend in a car before. Sue me. There is nothing more annoying than having a giant spotlight shining in your window when you're trying to kiss someone. The officer has you

roll down your window, asks if you have drugs or alcohol and how old you both are to be sure you're not breaking curfew. But once he realizes we're harmless and just trying to keep to ourselves, he tells us to have fun and goes away.

Highly-irritating, potentially-bad cop: My boyfriend and I were driving on the highway near Las Vegas last weekend. My boyfriend is Hispanic. Cars were passing us, but for some reason the officer decided to pull us over for going seven miles over the speed limit. SEVEN. It's technically legal, but is it normal? No. The officer approached our vehicle on the passenger's side and asked my boyfriend, who was driving, if he would get out of the car and come talk with him behind the vehicle. I was not happy. My window was down so I could at least hear some



File photo

of the conversation. He asked my boyfriend how he knew me, where we were going and why we were going there. He asked about the school where my boyfriend is a student and asked if I was a student there as well. He told my boyfriend that asking him to get out of the car was to prevent embarrassment and also that his girlfriend — me — had given him an "angry face." If I weren't afraid of worsening the consequences, I would probably have given him more than an angry face. We didn't get a ticket but were told to slow down.

Infuriating potentially-bad cop: My boyfriend was asked at a checkpoint in Arizona if he was a citizen. I know it's basically legal to racially profile, but it pissed me right off. He was born in the U.S. He is as much a citizen as I am, but because he has darker skin and darker eyes, he's asked ridiculous questions. It bothers me a lot that some law says this is OK. I thought this country was supposed to be a melting pot, where you have people of every ethnicity who are equally American. If you really want to be technical, his heritage is

probably more American than this blue-eyed Caucasian's. Cops are obviously not all the same. Much like journalists, politicians, even advertising representatives, their actions ought to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, but this is not a perfect world. While one officer is giving a ride to someone whose car broke down, another is pulling over her Hispanic boyfriend and asking him where he's from. Because the bad cop presents a problem of racism, he receives the attention and good cop is ignored. To my good cop friends, I feel for you and can relate. People are still mad at me for things that happened in my organization when I was in middle school. But take heart. Anything worthwhile is a struggle.

— Mariah Noble is the editor-in-chief of The Utah Statesman. She is majoring in journalism and minoring in Spanish and multimedia. She plans to graduate in May. Please send comments to statesmaneditor@aggiemail.usu.edu or job offers to m.noble@aggiemail.usu.edu.

Horoscope love forecast

Aries: March 21 - April 19
Mars will be in your sign for several weeks, and this will give you lots of extra stamina. It's a good time to start a new exercise regimen and focus on improving your health. You'll also want to reach out to your social network and get together with some friends.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20
You'll be drawn to people who are artistic and playful while the sun increases your imagination. Spend time with new friends who have a strong sense of vision about their lives. Surround yourself with people who inspire you to create and to achieve.

Gemini: May 21 - June 21

You and a stranger could experience a powerful attraction this week as Mercury creates some flirty fun. This could be just a brief encounter at a store or public place, where the two of you enjoy some friendly chat. Or it might be something that happens within your social group.

Cancer: June 22-July 22
As the sun moves into a friendly sign, you'll hit a nice groove. Finally, work seems to be going well and you're less stressed out than before. At last, romantic matters are starting to make more sense. You're either happily single or joyfully partnered to someone.

Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22
A bunch of fiery planets are urging you to be bold. If you're interested in someone, ask that person out instead of waiting around just hoping something will happen. If you've been thinking about changing jobs, start scheduling some interviews. Seize the day.

Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
Sometimes your perfectionist nature can work against you. The sun is reminding you not to be so picky or critical about your significant other. He or she might not be perfect, but neither are you. Focus on all of this person's good qualities.

Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 23
A moon opposition is telling you not to make any sudden moves. Even if you think you're falling in love with someone, give the situation more time to evolve. You need to gather more information before you launch any big plans.

Scorpio: Oct. 24 - Nov. 21
A romantic sun has you thinking about what it would be like to be with a soulmate. Or if you're already in a relationship, you could be wondering how you can tweak your romance and make it more joyful and intimate. Keep brainstorming.

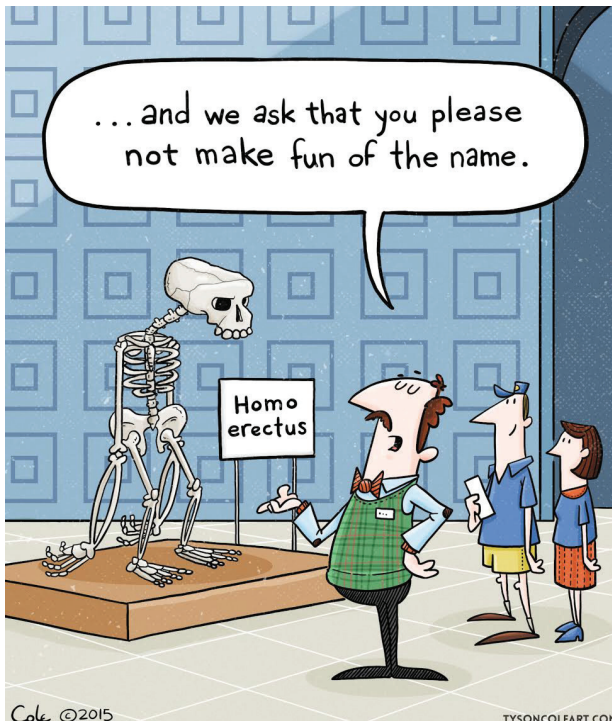
Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
Saturn is inspiring you to fix things on the domestic front. You might be redecorating your living space, eliminating clutter, or just generally thinking about what type of home you want to maintain one day with that special someone.

Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
You'll be in a talkative mood this week as Mars inspires you to speak up. Don't be afraid to express your truth. By being you, you might attract new friends or admirers who share your views. Draw these people toward you with your unique magnetism.

Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
As an Air sign, you collect friends easily. This week Mercury has you making yet another friend, someone who could become a soulmate of sorts. It's always wonderful to encounter like-minded spirits as you wander through life.

Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20
The sun will be in your sign for four weeks, and this marks your yearly power time. This period is great for goal setting, taking stock of things, and focusing on self-improvement. Along the way, you'll also come up with some ideas to fix your love life.

— Jennifer Shepherd, the Lipstick Mystic®, is an astrologer and columnist with over 2 million readers. For mystical fun and psychic insights visit www.lipstickmystic.com.



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CALENDAR

Thursday, Feb. 19

- High: 55 | Low: 34 | Sunny
- Logan Youth Shakespeare Class | Bullen Center | \$325, 4:00 pm
 - Paint-In | Bullen Center | \$20, 4:00 pm
 - College of Engineering Community Night | TSC International lounge | Free, 6:00 pm
 - Corey Christiansen | Why Sound | \$15, 7:30 pm, 9:00 pm
 - Exhibitions ‘Black Mountain College: Shaping Craft + Design’ and ‘Relational Forms’ | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free; Suggested \$3 donation per person, All Day
 - Crafting a Continuum: Rethinking Contemporary Craft | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day
 - Relational Expressions: The Art of Everett C. Thorpe | Chase Fine Arts Center at USU | Free, All Day

Friday, Feb. 20

- High: 46 | Low: 27 | Rainy
- Storytime at Willow ParkZoo | Willow Park Zoo, Logan UT | \$0.50, 11:30 am
 - Science Unwrapped | Eccles Science Learning Center, Emert Auditorium | Free, 7:00 pm
 - Laura Ingalls Wilder: Growing Up on the Prairie | Ellen Eccles Theater | \$8, 7:00 pm
 - Areito | TSC Ballroom | \$0-\$15. Free for infants, \$7 for children, \$13 for adults, \$15 at the door, 7:00 pm
 - WINDSCAPE with Adam Nielsen | USU Performance Hall, USU Campus | \$8-\$24, 7:30 pm
 - Seasons, Beneath The Red Skies | Why Sound | \$5, 8:00 pm
 - Latin Dance Night | Spring Creek Fitness | \$5, 9:15 pm
 - Exhibitions ‘Black Mountain College: Shaping Craft + Design’ and ‘Relational Forms’ | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free; Suggested \$3 donation per person, All Day
 - Crafting a Continuum: Rethinking Contemporary Craft | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day
 - Relational Expressions: The Art of Everett C. Thorpe | Chase Fine Arts Center at USU | Free
 - 24-Hour Game-Athon Charity Event | Old Main
 - Monetary donations - checks will be accepted but physical money is encouraged., All Day

Saturday, Feb. 21

- High: 43 | Low: 21 | Snowy
- Superhero Party | The Castle Manor | \$20, 10:00 am
 - Make Your Own Soap | Spirit Goat Soap Shop | \$6, 10:00 am
 - Soul Food Dinner | TSC Ballroom | \$11, 6:00 pm
 - Utah State Men’s Basketball | Dee Glen Smith Spectrum | \$15-\$17, 7:00 pm
 - The Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber | Ellen Eccles Theater-Cache Valley Center for the Arts | \$30-\$44, 7:30 pm
 - Sarah Olsen | Why Sound | \$5, 8:00 pm
 - Black Mountain College: Shaping Craft + Design | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free; Suggested \$3 donation per person, All Day
 - Crafting a Continuum: Rethinking Contemporary Craft | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day
 - 24-Hour Game-a-Thon for Charity | Old Main, Room 406 | \$5 + recommended donation, 6:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Sunday, Feb. 22

- High: 39 | Low: 12 | Sunny
- Shaping Modern Jazz | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, 3:00 pm

Monday, Feb. 23

- High: 43 | Low: 21 | Sunny
- Visual Art Classes | Bullen Center | \$50-\$100, 9:30 am
 - The Hundred-Foot Journey | North Logan City Library | Free, 6:30 pm
 - Relational Expressions: The Art of Everett C. Thorpe | Chase Fine Arts Center-Utah State University | Free, All Day

Tuesday, Feb. 24

- High: 46 | Low: 25 | Sunny
- Utah State Men’s Basketball | Dee Glen Smith Spectrum | \$15-\$17, 6:00 pm
 - Black Mountain College: Shaping Craft + Design | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free

This issue dedicated to:

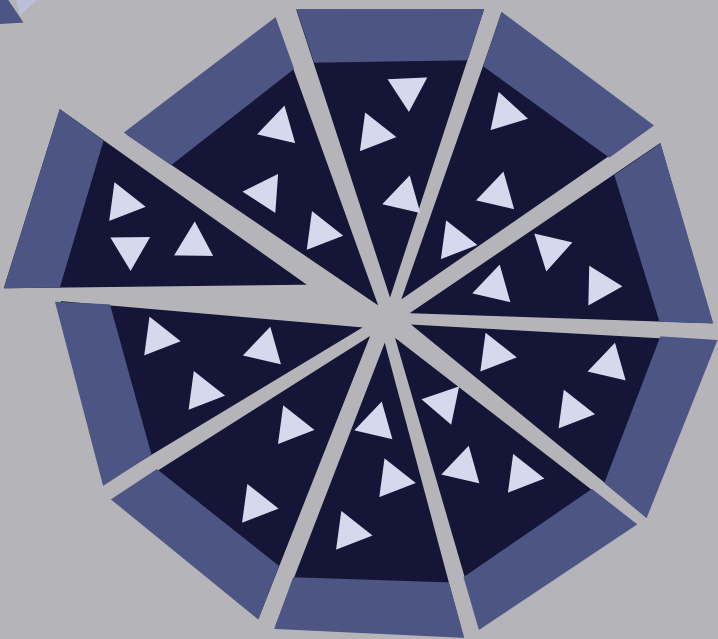


Emilie Conover | freshman | recreation | Brigham City, Utah

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